Safety Procedures and Programs for Hazardous Spills on County Roads

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At a hazardous materials spill personal protection is highest on the list. Following a spill, the following procedures are taken: setting up a perimeter of safety, establishing a command post, getting proper technical expertise to the scene, controlling the contamination, dealing with the media, summoning proper health officials, getting reliable clean-up operators, and finally critiquing the incident and establishing the liability of clean-up.

Most importantly, analyze each incident afterward to both learn from mistakes so as to not repeat the same errors, and for planning purposes to avoid a similar incident in the future whenever possible.

Technical help can be obtained from the Indiana State Police and its HAZ/MAT officials. Highway officials should be aware of communications available through the Indiana State Police and the use of helicopters if needed.

The author has slides of violations and spills, and can comment on things to look for at the scene.

Stupid moves can result in death or injury which would not help an incident. HAZ/MAT spills can be dangerous and without proper protective gear and planning, one should not attempt to approach the scene until technical help arrives.